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(b) how long they have been practising in these Courts; and

(c) why they have been allowed to do so where there is no dearth of qualified pleaders?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

(c) The hon. Member's attention is invited to rules 192 and 193 of the Criminal Rules of Practice.

Electricity

Licences for electric supply to Salem, Erode and Coimbatore.

* 341 Q.—Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have any schemes on hand for electrification of Salem, Erode and Coimbatore municipal areas and in what stage each of those schemes now stands;

(b) whether the Government Electrical Inspector prepared a scheme and submitted a report in September 1928 estimating the cost of electrification of Salem and whether the Government approved of the scheme;

(c) whether that scheme has been dropped and whether the Government have resolved upon another scheme of themselves selling to the Salem Municipality a bulk supply of electric energy from a Government transmission line from Mettur and what arrangements the Government have made for the distribution of the supply;

(d) whether the Chairman, Salem Municipal Council, addressed the Government asking for the grant of the distribution licence to the municipality itself;

(e) whether the Government have offered or granted the distribution licence to Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd., Calcutta, and whether the licence has been actually issued to that company;

(f) what are the terms or the main terms as to the period of licence, time within which the licensee is to start and complete his initial work, remuneration or payment to the licensee and payment by the municipality;

(g) why the Government preferred the company to the local municipal council;

(h) whether the Erode and Coimbatore Municipal Councils or either of them have asked for the grant of licence to themselves and objected to the licence being granted to Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd., Calcutta, or other outsiders; and

(i) whether Government will be pleased to enunciate definitely their policy and programme on the subject?

A.—(a) & (c) Yes. As regards Salem and Erode, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 163. The question of a licence for the distribution of power from Pykara Project in Coimbatore towards the end of 1932 is under consideration.

(b) The Electrical Inspector investigated a scheme at the instance of the Municipal Council. The Government received no report on the results of this investigation.

(d) to (h) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 163.

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The terms of the licence granted to Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. were published at pages 34–40 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 6th January 1931.

(*i*) The Government's programme in regard to these places is explained in the answer to clause (*a*). The grant of licences for distribution depends on the circumstances of each case.

Jails

Change of certain political prisoners from a higher to a lower class.

* 342 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of political prisoners who were treated as A or B class by the convicting Magistrate but were subsequently changed into B or C class respectively in the jail, with the reasons, if any, for the change of classification;

(*b*) whether Mr. Mangipudi Purushottama Sarma, Mr. Tallapragada Narasimha Sarma and Mr. Kuduganti Jagganna Sastri of West Godavari district were so changed from A to B; and, if so, why; and

(*c*) whether Mr. Vittalla Virabhadrarao, Poduri Perraju and Sagi Subbaraju of West Godavari were similarly changed from B to C; and, if so, why?

A.—(*a*) The Government have revised the classification of satyagraha prisoners in about 186 cases in all for the period from March to the end of December 1930. The number of those alone who were changed from A or B class into B or C class respectively is not readily available separately. The classification was changed by Government with reference to—

(1) the status, education, mode of life, property, etc., of the prisoners; and

(2) the request from certain prisoners to put them in C class.

(*b*) & (*c*) Yes; the change in classification was effected for the reason (1) given in the answer to clause (*a*).

Supply of newspapers and writing materials to political prisoners.

* 343 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether newspapers and writing materials are denied to the political prisoners in Madras?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to paragraph 2 (VI) of Law (General) Department Press Communiqué, dated 19th March 1930, and to rules 437, 747-C (5) and 747-D (5) of the Madras Jail Manual.

Hand-cuffing of Dr. P. Gurumurti on transfer from Rajahmundry.

* 344 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether Dr. P. Gurumurti (of Rajahmundry, East Godavari) was hand-cuffed and taken in a third-class compartment from Rajahmundry to Vellore Jail; and, if so, the reason for hand-cuffing him and not providing him at least with second-class accommodation during the railway journey?

A.—The information has been called for.